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EXAMINER

CONTEE, JOY KIMBERLY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2681

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2001

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/448,180

Applicant(s)
Levit et al.

Examiner
Joy K. Contee

Art Unit
2681



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 24, 1999

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____

20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claims 1 and 8 recites the limitation "said telephone call" in lines 11 and 12, respectively. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yablon, U.S. Patent No. 5,746,731.

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Regarding claim 1, in light of rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, Yablon discloses a method for identifying a message selection made at a mobile station (MS), the method comprising the steps of:

- uniquely associating an inbound telephone number with a message (col. 6, lines 48-55);
- attaching said inbound telephone number to said message (col. 6, lines 52-55);
- sending said message and said attached inbound telephone number to an MS using an MS telephone number associated with said MS (col. 7, lines 19-24);
- maintaining a unique association between said message, said inbound telephone number and said MS telephone number (col. 5, lines 35-39);
- selecting said message at said MS (col. 8, lines 21-29);
- calling from said MS said inbound telephone number attached to said selected message (col. 8, lines 21-29) ;
- identifying said inbound telephone number of said telephone call (i.e., the call established from the MS calling said inbound number) (col. 6, lines 51-55);
- identifying said MS telephone number (i.e, inherently identifies MS number if answering machine has ability to initiate calls to the primary user telephone) of said telephone call (col. 7, lines 19-24); and
- identifying said message associated with said inbound telephone number and said MS telephone number, thereby identifying said message selection made at said MS (col. 7, lines 19-24 and col. 8, lines 21-30).

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Regarding claim 2, Yablon discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein said uniquely associating step comprises uniquely associating a different inbound telephone numbers (i.e., similar to pager recordings of incoming pages) with each of a plurality of messages destined for said MS (col. 8, lines 21-30).

Regarding claim 3, Yablon discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting step comprises displaying said message on a display (col. 8, lines 43-48).

Regarding claim 4, Yablon discloses a method according to claim 1 wherein said calling step comprises activating a calling mechanism at said MS which automatically dials said inbound telephone number attached to said selected message (col. 7, lines 61-67).

Regarding claim 5, Yablon discloses a method according to claim 1 wherein said identifying said inbound telephone number step comprises determining via which telephone line (i.e., primary user telephone) said telephone call is received and identifying said inbound telephone number associated with said telephone line (col. 8, lines 21-29).

Regarding claim 6, Yablon discloses a method according to claim 1 wherein said identifying said MS telephone number step comprises identifying using Automatic Number Identification (ANI) (col. 6, lines 51-55).

Regarding claim 7, Yablon discloses a method according to claim 1, wherein said message is a Short Message Service (SMS) message (i.e., text message) (col. 17, lines 54-60).

Regarding claim 8, Yablon discloses a method for outputting an underlying message based on the identification of an associated message, the method comprising the steps of:

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creating an associated message (i.e., stored message) identifying an underlying message (i.e., identifying information) (col.6, lines 48-55);

uniquely associating an inbound telephone number with said associated message (col. 6, lines 48-55);

attaching said inbound telephone number to said associated message (col. 6, lines 52-55);

sending said associated message and said attached inbound telephone number to an MS using an MS telephone number associated with said MS (col. 7, lines 19-24),

maintaining a unique association between said underlying message, said inbound telephone number, and said MS telephone number (col. 5, lines 35-39);

selecting said associated message at said MS (col. 8, lines 21-29);

calling from said MS said inbound telephonic number attached to said selected message (col. 8, lines 21-29);

identifying said inbound telephone number of said telephone call (col. 6, lines 51-55);

identifying said underlying message associated with said inbound telephone number and said MS telephone number (col. 7, lines 19-24 and col. 8, lines 21-30); and

outputting said underlying message (i.e., writing into memory caller's numbers) (col. 8, lines 21-29).

Regarding claim 9, Yablon disclose a method according to claim 8 wherein said creating step comprises forming said associated message from any of a body portion and a header portion

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of said underlying message (i.e., recording caller's number on or with stored message) (col. 6, lines 51-55).

Regarding claim 10, Yablon discloses a method according to claim 9, wherein said creating step comprises forming associated message using optical character recognition (OCR) on a printed form (i.e., via facsimile machine) of said underlying message (col. 9, lines 52-57 and col. 17, lines 54-60)

Regarding claim 11, Yablon discloses a method according to claim 9, wherein said creating step comprises forming said associated message using speech-to-text conversion on a spoken form of said underlying message (col. 6, lines 51-55).

Regarding claim 12, Yablon discloses a method according to claim 8 wherein said outputting step comprising performing text-to-speech conversion on said underlying message (col. 6, lines 43-47).

Regarding claim 13, Yablon discloses a method according to claim 8 wherein said outputting step comprises playing audio recording of said underlying message (col. 6, lines 43-47).

Regarding claim 14, Yablon discloses a method according to claim 8, and further discloses the method wherein said associated message is a Short Message Service (SMS) message (i.e., text message) (col. 17, lines 54-60).

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Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bhagat et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,559,862, discloses a mobile paging telephone call back system and method.

Manssen et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,963,876, discloses a method for editing a received phone number prior to placing a call to the received phone number.

Usami et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,118,994, discloses a portable communication device.

Rivero et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,184,796, discloses a method and apparatus for automatic telephone dialing from a pager message.

Ramamurthy, U.S. Patent No. 6,304,565, discloses a method of completing long distance POTS calls.

Norman et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,055, 305, discloses a method and apparatus for providing network based customized call treatment.

Corlett et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,832,060, discloses a system and associated method for concatenated messages.

Bossi et al., U. S. Patent No. 5,754,628, discloses a method of providing telecommunications network based message services.

Egan et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,671,269, discloses a telephone communication apparatus including reply apparatus for responding to an incoming telephone call.

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Slusky, U.S. Patent No. 5,487,111, discloses a telecommunications system sequence calling.

Scherer, U.S. Patent No. 6,188, 751, discloses a call processing system with call screening.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joy K. Contee whose telephone number is (703) 308-0149, M-F, 5:30 to 2:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner are not successful, the examiner's supervisor, Dwayne Bost can be reached on (703)305-4778.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-0377.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry or for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to

Crystal Park II

Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

2121 Crystal Drive

Application/Control Number: 09/448,180


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Arlington, VA


Joy K. Contee

December 16, 2001


NAY MAUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER